

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of

Amendment of Section 73.202(b),
Table of Allotments,
FM Broadcast Stations.
(Fisher and Thief River Falls, Minnesota)

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MB Docket No. 05-116
RM-11188

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE MAKING

Adopted: March 16, 2005

Released: March 18, 2005

Comment Date: May 9, 2005

Reply Comment Date: May 24, 2005

By the Assistant Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau:

1. The Audio Division has before it a Petition for Rule Making filed by Citicasters Licenses, L.P. ("Petitioner"), licensee of FM Station KSNR, Channel 262C1, Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Petitioner proposes the reallocation of Channel 262C1 from Thief River Falls to Fisher, Minnesota, and modification of its Station KSNR license to specify Fisher, Minnesota, as the community of license. This reallocation will provide the first local aural transmission service to Fisher.

2. Petitioner invokes the provisions of Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's rules which permits the modification of a station's authorization to specify a new community of license without affording other interested parties an opportunity to file competing expressions of interest.¹ The proposed use of Channel 262C1 at Fisher, Minnesota, is mutually exclusive with Station KSNR's existing authorization at Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

3. Petitioner asserts that the allotment of Channel 262C1 to Fisher would not deprive Thief River Falls of its sole local transmission outlet, because Thief River Falls would continue to be served by six local radio broadcast stations. Petitioner notes that the Commission's FM allotment priorities set forth in *Revision of FM Assignment Policies and Procedures*² would be served because Petitioner would provide a first local radio broadcast service at Fisher, Minnesota (2000 U.S. Census of 435 persons). Petitioner asserts that Fisher has its own elected government, including a mayor and city council, and provides its own fire department, police department and rescue squad. In addition, Petitioner asserts that Fisher has its own chamber of commerce; many private commercial businesses, some of which include the word "Fisher" in their names; its own American Legion Post; several churches; its own post office and its own zip code. Because Petitioner's proposal is consistent with the provisions of Section 1.420(i) of the Commission's

¹ See *Modification of FM and TV Authorizations to Specify a New Community of License*, 4 FCC Rcd 4870 (1989), recon. granted in part, 5 FCC Rcd 7094 (1990).

² 90 FCC 2d 88 (1982). The allotment priorities are: (1) first full-time aural service; (2) second full-time aural service; (3) first local service and (4) other public interest matters. Equal weight is given to priorities (2) and (3).

rules, we shall propose to modify the authorization of FM Station KSNR without entertaining competing expressions of interest in the use of Channel 262C1 at Fisher, Minnesota, or requiring Petitioner to demonstrate the availability of an additional equivalent channel for use by other parties.

4. Consistent with the technical requirements of the Commission's rules, Channel 262C1 can be allotted to Fisher, Minnesota, utilizing coordinates of 47-58-38 NL and 96-36-42 WL, with a site restriction of 24.2 kilometers (15.1 miles) northeast of Fisher. Since this allotment is located within 320 kilometers (199 miles) of the U.S.-Canadian border, concurrence of the Canadian government has been requested.

5. Petitioner will not change its current transmitter site for FM Station KSNR if Channel 262C1 is reallocated to Fisher, Minnesota. Fisher is not located in an Urbanized Area. Nevertheless both the existing and the proposed 70 dBu contour of Station KSNR cover 100 percent of the Grand Forks, North Dakota-Minnesota Urbanized Area. Accordingly, Petitioner need not submit a showing that it is independent from the referenced urbanized area in order to receive a first local service preference pursuant to the Commission's FM allotment priorities.³

6. Accordingly, we seek comments on the proposed amendment to the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules, with respect to the communities listed below, as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Channel Nos.</u>	
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Fisher, Minnesota	————	262C1
Thief River Falls	257C3, 262C1. 274C1	257C3, 274C1

7. The Commission's authority to institute rule making proceedings, showings required, cut-off procedures, and filing requirements are contained in the attached Appendix and are incorporated by reference herein. In particular, we note that a showing of continuing interest is required by paragraph 2 of the Appendix before a channel will be allotted.

8. Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Sections 1.415 and 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before May 9, 2005, and reply comments on or before May 24, 2005, and are advised to read the *Appendix* for the proper procedures. Comments should be filed with the Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325, Washington, D.C. 20554. Additionally, a

³ See *Kankakee and Park Forest, Illinois*, 16 FCC Rcd 6768 (MMB, 2001), and note 2, *supra*.

copy of such comments should be served on Petitioner's counsel, as follows:

Marissa G. Repp, Esq.
Tarah S. Grant, Esq.
Hogan & Hartson L.L.P.
555 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-1109

9. Parties must file an original and four paper copies of each filing. Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail or Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. **All filings must be addressed to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Office of the Secretary. Any filing that is not addressed to the Office of the Secretary will be treated as filed on the day it is received in the Office of the Secretary. See 47 C.F.R. § 1.7. Accordingly, failure to follow the specified requirements may result in the treatment of a filing as untimely.**

10. The Commission has determined that the relevant provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to rule making proceedings to amend the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules.⁴ This document does not contain new or modified information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13. In addition, therefore, it does not contain any new or modified "information collection burden for small business concerns with fewer than 25 employees," pursuant to the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act of 2002, Public Law 107-198, see 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(4).

11. For further information concerning this proceeding, contact R. Barthen Gorman, Media Bureau, (202) 418-2180. For purposes of this restricted notice and comment rule making proceeding, members of the public are advised that no *ex parte* presentations are permitted from the time the Commission adopts a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* until the proceeding has been decided and such decision is no longer subject to reconsideration by the Commission or review by any court. An *ex parte* presentation is not prohibited if specifically requested by the Commission or staff for the clarification or adduction of evidence or resolution of issues in the proceeding. However, any new written information elicited from such a request or a summary of any new oral information shall be served by the person making the presentation upon the other parties to the proceeding unless the Commission specifically waives this service requirement.

⁴ See *Certification that Sections 603 and 604 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act Do Not Apply to Rule Making to Amend Sections 73.202(b) and 73.606(b) of the Commission's Rules*, 46 FR 11549, February 9, 1981.

Any comment, which has not been served on the petitioner, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding. Any reply comment that has not been served on the person(s) who filed the comment to which the reply is directed, constitutes an *ex parte* presentation and shall not be considered in the proceeding.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

John A. Karousos
Assistant Chief
Audio Division
Media Bureau

Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX

1. Pursuant to authority contained in Sections 4(i), 5(c)(1), 303(g) and (r), and 307(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and Sections 0.61, 0.204(b) and 0.283 of the Commission's rules, IT IS PROPOSED TO AMEND the FM Table of Allotments, Section 73.202(b) of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, as set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached.

2. Showings Required. Comments are invited on the proposal discussed in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. Proponent will be expected to answer whatever questions are presented in initial comments. The proponent of a proposed allotment is also expected to file comments even if it only resubmits or incorporates by reference its former pleadings. It should also restate its present intention to apply for the channel if it is allotted and, if authorized, to build a station promptly. Failure to file may lead to denial of the request.

3. Cut-off Procedures. The following procedures will govern the consideration of filings in this proceeding.

(a) Counterproposals advanced in this proceeding itself will be considered, if advanced in initial comments, so that parties may comment on them in reply comments. They will not be considered if advanced in reply comments. (See Section 1.420(d) of the Commission's rules.)

(b) With respect to petitions for rule making which conflict with the proposal in this Notice, they will be considered as comments in the proceeding, and Public Notice to this effect will be given as long as they are filed before the date for filing initial comments herein. If they are filed later than that, they will not be considered in connection with the decision in this docket.

(c) The filing of a counterproposal may lead the Commission to allot a different channel than was requested for any of the communities involved.

4. Comments and Reply Comments; Service. Pursuant to applicable procedures set out in Sections 1.415 and 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, interested parties may file comments and reply comments on or before the dates set forth in the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* to which this Appendix is attached. All submissions by parties to this proceeding or by persons acting on behalf of such parties must be made in written comments, reply comments, or other appropriate pleadings. Comments shall be served on the petitioner by the person filing the comments. Reply comments shall be served on the person who filed comments to which the reply is directed. Such comments and reply comments shall be accompanied by a certificate of service. (See Section 1.420(a), (b) and (c) of the Commission's rules.) Comments should be filed with the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Number of Copies. In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.420 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations, an original and four copies of all comments, reply comments, pleadings, briefs, or other documents shall be furnished the Commission.

6. Public Inspection of Filings. All filings made in this proceeding will be available for examination by interested parties during regular business hours in the Commission's Reference Information Center (Room CY-A257), at its headquarters, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Washington, D.C.